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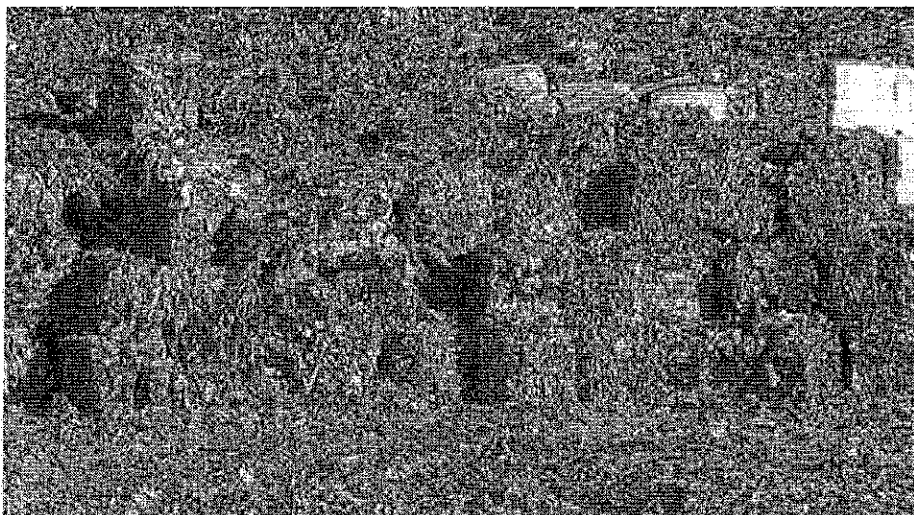
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Wednesday, August 10, 2016, 16:00 by Ivan Camilleri

# Wasteserv denies resorting to bad practices to cut costs

## Maghtab residents report worsening odours coming from the landfill



Refuse-driven fuel meant for export.

The agency managing the Ghallis engineered landfill has rejected claims of resorting to bad waste management practices to cut expenses.

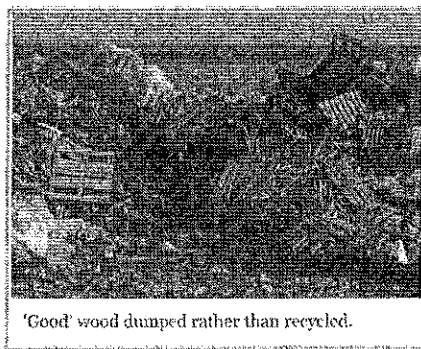
Maghtab residents, however, have complained that bad smells emanating from the landfill have increased substantially in recent months.

Pictures taken last week show what appears to be recyclable waste being dumped at the landfill, while drainage sludge is being left to dry in the open air for days, though this is considered contrary to good industrial practice.

Experts claimed that drainage sludge – residue emanating from the sewage treatment facilities – is being dumped at the Ghallis facility without being covered with inert waste as soon as it gets there.

Also, some of the sludge is being left uncovered for days, increasing the bad smells in the area.

According to the experts, waste that should be recycled, including wood and refuse-driven fuel, which is normally exported, is being dumped in the landfill.



'Good' wood dumped rather than recycled.

Sources said it was difficult to investigate reports that measures were being taken to cut corners and reduce the expenditure on the management of the landfill, because it was only accessible to those authorised by Wasteserv. However, they added, the smells had become more pronounced and people in the area were noticing it.

"The smells have increased dramatically over the past months, and we don't know why. When we complain to Wasteserv, they tell us to shut the windows," said a Maghtab resident who has been living in the area for the past 12 years.

When contacted, a spokeswoman for Wasteserv denied that the agency was cutting corners to reduce expenses.

Asked whether it was true that drainage sludge was being left uncovered, she said the material would have already stabilised by the time it reached Ghallis and when it was eventually landfilled, it generated minimal odours. The spokeswoman insisted that "all waste that enters the Ghallis landfill is covered by a layer of inert waste every day to minimise odours".

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With regard to wood being dumped rather than recycled, the Wasteserv official noted that priority was given to reuse. "However, not all wood can be recycled," she said. "Wood that has been treated, painted, stained or contaminated is not appropriate for recycling and has to be disposed of at the landfill."

Asked about the reports of refuse-driven fuel being dumped instead of exported, the spokeswoman said that "given that Malta does not have a waste-to-energy facility (incinerator), RDF is partly exported at a cost and partly stored at the Maghtab environmental complex for future use".

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Mmmmm. Smells can whet the appetite sometimes but this takes the biscuit!

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How about running a similar article on the St Antnin Recycling Plant. Bet M'Scala residents have ample to share on Wasteserv.

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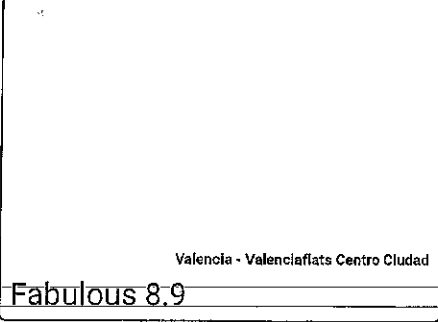


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Hmmm.... no elves yet? Ronnie, perhaps?

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"Close the windows" what a solution especially in summer. Here at Salina, we smell both garbage and sludge. It's so disgusting but nobody seems interested in anybody's wellbeing in this country

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**Paul Barrett** → Simone Camilleri • 2 years ago

It is not only the smell It is the amount of "unexplained" headaches when the wind blows directly from the dump or the air is still. Fortunately paracetamol tablets are not too expensive and for Salina the wind is more often from the N to W area or life would be intolerable.

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**C. Magro** • 2 years ago

residents, go there, take photos and send to TOM!

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The pictures speak for themselves, Wasteserv spokeswoman must be missing distorting facts !!!!

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